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CFC partners with CAFI to shape Deforestation-Free Value Chains in the Congo Basin

The CFC is pleased to announce that Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) has selected CFC as an implementing organization for a groundbreaking project aimed at shaping deforestation-free value chains in the Congo Basin.

Launched during the 2015 United Nations General Assembly, CAFI is a collaborative partnership dedicated to protecting the world’s second-largest rainforest – the Congo Basin – which plays a vital role in global climate regulation, biodiversity conservation, and supporting millions of livelihoods. CAFI works with partner countries to reduce deforestation and forest degradation while fostering sustainable economic development and improving land use planning.

The Congo Basin rainforest plays an essential role in climate regulation, absorbing nearly 1.5 billion tons of CO2 annually,

which accounts for around 4% of global emissions. CAFI mobilizes funds and implements strategies that address the root causes of deforestation, such as unsustainable agricultural practices, land use pressures, and economic instability.

“The Congo Basin is more than just a regional resource – it is a cornerstone of the planet’s ecological balance. We are thrilled to take part in this critical initiative alongside CAFI, as we work toward fostering economic growth while safeguarding one of the planet’s most vital ecosystems,” said Amb. Sheikh Belal, Managing Director of CFC.

The regional project aims to establish deforestation-free value chains by creating dedicated financing mechanisms. It will focus on reducing the environmental impact of agricultural expansion and promoting sustainable value chains, contribut-

ing to the preservation of the Congo Basin forests. Additionally, the project will emphasize sustainable forest management and the development of sustainable forest industries. To achieve these goals, the CFC will collaborate with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) as an implementing partner.

As part of this partnership, CAFI has approved an initial preparatory grant to CFC to further develop a comprehensive project proposal of up to USD 60 million in grant funding to be deployed over a period of five years.

CFC is currently implementing the preparatory work and intensifying its engagement with the agricultural and forestry sector actors in the Congo Basin region, which includes Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, and the Central African Republic. ■

Photo: Adobe stock

Brewing Prosperity: JKCC's Revolution in Uganda's Coffee Industry

In Uganda's fertile heartland, where rich soils and a favourable climate create ideal conditions for coffee cultivation, a company named Just Know Your Coffee Cup General Supplies Ltd (JKCC) is transforming the industry. Since its founding in 2017, this Nabbingo-based green coffee processor and exporter has rapidly ascended to become one of Uganda's top 15 coffee exporters. Through responsible sourcing, farmer empowerment, and sustainable practices, JKCC is reshaping Uganda's coffee narrative, ensuring its farmers take center stage on the global coffee value chain.

JKCC is thus a critical antidote to the coffee value chain, where smallholders are placed at the center to restore the dignity and rightful income they deserve.

A Mission Rooted in Farmer Empowerment

For Uganda, coffee is more than just a commodity – it is the economic lifeblood for many local rural communities. Yet, for too long, smallholder farmers have been caught in cycles of underpricing and exploitation. JKCC, under the leadership of visionary entrepreneur Julius Kalulu, is disrupting this broken system. Having grown up in a farming family, Julius experienced firsthand the challenges of the opaque coffee value chain and its impact on farmers' livelihoods.

Therefore, after establishing JKCC, his first step was to partner with the Consortium of Central and Western Farmers Association (COCEWEFA), a local cooperative currently comprising over 4,640 farmers. Through this partnership, JKCC has eliminated exploitative middlemen, ensuring farmers receive fair compensation. Beyond fair pricing, JKCC provides extensive training in Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) equipping farmers to cultivate world-class coffee while boosting their yields and income.

Revolutionizing the Supply Chain: From Farm to Global Markets

JKCC is transforming the supply chain with a direct, transparent farmer-to-market pipeline. Through its COCEWEFA network, JKCC sources premium Arabica and Robusta, pro-

cesses it to high standards, and exports to Europe and North America. While the EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR) poses a challenge for many, JKCC views it as an opportunity. By focusing on traceability and quality, JKCC has earned the trust of international buyers, strengthening Uganda's reputation as a top coffee origin.

Innovation and Sustainability: The Future of Ugandan Coffee

Innovation drives JKCC's growth. The company is developing a state-of-the-art coffee processing facility in Kampala Industrial and Business Park (KIMP), Namanve. This facility will create local jobs and enable JKCC to process coffee into higher-value products like roasted beans and ground coffee, boosting global market returns.

Sustainability is central to JKCC's vision. To combat climate challenges, it promotes climate-smart techniques such as intercropping, shade tree planting, and organic soil enrichment. These regenerative practices protect the environment, boost farmer incomes, and increase yields to help secure Uganda's future as a competitive coffee producer.

Empowering Women and Youth in Coffee Farming

A thriving coffee industry must be inclusive. JKCC is leading efforts to empower women and young farmers. Currently, 41.6% of COCEWEFA's farmers are women, many gaining financial independence through JKCC's direct market access model. Tailored training programs enhance their financial

literacy and agribusiness skills for long-term empowerment.

JKCC is also making coffee farming an attractive career for Uganda's youth. Through mentorship and digital literacy initiatives, it equips young farmers with the skills and networks to succeed, transforming coffee from a crop into a profitable business.

CFC's Investment: A Catalyst for Transformation

Access to finance drives growth. Despite JKCC's success, working capital constraints limited processing to 30% of COCEWEFA's coffee output. To scale up, JKCC seeks funding to expand procurement and improve processing infrastructure.

CFC's USD 1 million trade finance facility is poised to be a transformative force, enabling JKCC to buy more coffee directly from farmers, reducing reliance on intermediaries and boosting farmer incomes. The funding also strengthens in-house processing, enhancing quality control and lowering costs.

Transforming Lives: The Real Impact of JKCC's Model

Beyond profit margins and expansion strategies, JKCC's greatest achievement lies in its impact on people. Across Uganda, thousands of smallholder farmers are breaking free from economic precarity, stepping into a future where they are not just cultivators of coffee but stakeholders in a thriving global enterprise. The company is also reinvesting in communities, funding rural infrastructure projects like schools and roads to further improve the quality of life for coffee-growing families.

Uganda's Coffee Future: Scaling to New Heights

JKCC's ambitions align with Uganda's goal of producing 20 million coffee bags annually by 2030. Through fair trade, sustainability, and a focus on farmer welfare, the company is actively shaping this vision. Its advocacy for policies that support smallholder farmers highlights its leadership in the industry.

Emphasizing on the impact of JKCC, Chris Rallis, Project manager at CFC added, "As JKCC continues to expand, it remains steadfast in its commitment to its founding mission: to ensure that every cup of coffee tells a story of empowerment, sustainability, and excellence. This is not just about exporting coffee – it is about generating hope, resilience, and a brighter future for Uganda's coffee farmers." ■

Photo: JKCC

JKCC's intercropping system in Uganda with coffee, passion fruit, yams, cassava, and beans.





Reinvigorating land and livelihoods by investing in irrigation

Across the globe, drought events are on an upward curve. In 1974 only 9.57% of global land experienced at least one month of drought, according to the 2024 Report of the Lancet Countdown. By 2023 that had risen to 48.17%.

For smallholder farmers who are most impacted by local climactic changes, this creates immense challenges particularly in severely affected regions such as Africa and the Americas. Simply put, without water their lives and livelihoods become impossible.

One solution, which has the power to secure a farmer's harvest and unlock new land for agriculture, is irrigation. And one company at the forefront of providing the tools, expertise and financing that enable farmers to continue growing when the rains stop, is Rivulis.

Arkin Demir, General Manager of Rivulis Impact Financing, says: "This crisis has underscored the urgent need to spur wider adoption of water-efficient technologies and practices – a key component of our vision. Efficient irrigation methods are critical to maximize crop yields while conserving water, especially in regions experiencing water scarcity."

Rivulis helps farmers of all sizes build climate resilience with innovative micro-irrigation. Beyond providing products, it offers services like Rivulis Impact Finance, which removes financial barriers, and Rivulis Climate, which supports sustainable practices and carbon credit market access for additional revenue streams.

Arkin points out that the company's systems are designed to help farmers reduce their fertilizer usage by up to 30%, lowering their agricultural operations' carbon footprint. He also highlights the potential benefits of its digital tools for smallholder farmers. "Our Design to Harvest solutions revolutionize how irrigation systems are planned, managed, and optimized. These digital tools continuously monitor crops, fields, and irrigation systems,

enabling the automated execution of irrigation strategies, which is crucial for operational efficiency and safety." These tools include Rivulis ReelView which tracks the crop cycle and detects irrigation issues before they escalate, and Rivulis Rapid which optimizes system designs based on water availability, field conditions, and specific crop needs. "These technologies empower smallholder farmers with precise irrigation management, improving productivity and sustainability," says Arkin.

By providing greater access to drip irrigation and the cutting-edge tech to operate them, Rivulis aims to unlock economic and environmental opportunity for smallholders and their communities.

One example of its success is the Small Farmer Livelihood Project in India, a collaboration between Rivulis and the Jharkhand Rural Development Department, supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). By introducing drip irrigation, the initiative doubled women farmers' incomes, enabling Rabi season cultivation despite dry conditions.

This proven impact and the need for irrigation in drought-hit areas led the CFC to partner with Rivulis. A USD 1 million CFC loan will help Rivulis expand support to smallholders with flexible payment terms to manage seasonal cash flow and inherent risks of farming.

Initially, the financing will focus on Central and South America, where a lack of rain is a pressing problem. "The CFC's support will enable us to reach additional smallholder farmers in Peru and Mexico. Its financing allows us to expand the adoption of micro-irrigation solutions, increasing farmers' incomes, enhancing livelihoods, and positively impacting water sources and soil health," says Arkin. These solutions include products such as Drip Kits and Ro-Drip, which have numerous benefits for smallholder farmers. For example, Arkin explains, "Ro-Drip is a unique seasonal irrigation tape designed with a robust anti-clog-

ging system and resistance, making it ideal for smallholder farmers from Peru to Mexico who cultivate vegetables. These technologies help farmers optimize water usage, reduce costs, and increase crop yields."

Rivulis closely collaborates with agricultural cooperatives and community groups to promote micro-irrigation, reducing costs and addressing financing needs. It develops projects for crops like coffee, cacao, and sugarcane while providing irrigation training and water management expertise.

The potential to amplify local impact that ripples throughout communities is an exciting prospect, says CFC Risk and Portfolio Manager Hector Besong: "Water is fundamental to the lives and livelihoods of smallholder farmers, but it is becoming a scarce and erratic commodity for many. Without it they cannot grow their crops, feed their families or earn an income that lifts them out of poverty. In short, it is an essential ingredient in achieving many of our goals at the CFC, from driving prosperity to strengthening food security." He added: "That's why Rivulis is such a good fit for us. They have a wealth of experience providing irrigation solutions in many of the regions we work in. Our funding is designed to ensure those systems can benefit smallholder farmers who are most impacted by a lack of water."

Over the next five years the company intends to continue making its products and financial services as accessible as possible to smallholder farmers in regions of the world where drought is most acute. Taking the humble drop of water and turning it into a river of positive outcomes. ■



Arkin Demir, General Manager of Rivulis



Empowering smallholders to thrive in global food systems: Interview with Luz María de la Mora



After many years shaping economic policy at a national and international level for organizations such as Mexico's Ministry of Economy, **Luz María de la Mora** became the Director of International Trade and Commodities at United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in July of 2024. She wants to build a global economy that benefits everyone, including the smallholder farmers in developing countries who are our focus at the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC). We spoke to her about her goals, how trade is a force for good and why unlocking financing for agribusinesses is so important.

Why are you passionate about the power of trade to improve lives?

My passion for the power of trade to improve lives stems from its transformative potential to drive development and create opportunities for all. By integrating into global value chains, developing countries can diversify their economies, attract investment, create well-paid jobs, acquire knowledge, expand their networks and foster innovation.

Can you give an example of where you've seen the transformative impact of trade?

In my home country, Mexico, exports of products such as avocados, tomatoes, and berries have significantly boosted economic growth and job creation in some of the poorest regions, improving the lives of millions in rural areas.

Trade agreements like NAFTA (now USMCA) played a pivotal role in opening access to the U.S. market, transforming crops that were once primarily consumed domestically into major exports and even creating new export industries.

What are the key challenges you'll be focusing on in the next few years?

One is aligning trade with sustainability goals. Climate change presents an urgent global challenge, and trade must be central in driving solutions. My priority will be to foster policies that help developing countries adopt sustainable practices while remaining competitive in global markets.

Another critical challenge is ensuring that trade is inclusive. Despite its many benefits, trade can sometimes exacerbate inequalities or fail to reach those who could benefit the most. My focus will be on ensuring better access to global markets for small businesses, women, youth, persons with disabilities, consumers, and vulnerable communities, whether directly or indirectly.

How is UN Trade and Development supporting the poorest commodity producers to build resilience to potential economic and environmental shocks?

UNCTAD works to help developing countries, particularly the least developed countries (LDCs), integrate more effectively into global value chains to foster sustainable, commodity-driven development. This includes providing technical assistance to enhance the quality, sustainability, and market access of agricultural commodities. In recent years, UNCTAD carried out several projects with this objective.

For example, we published a study on export opportunities for Ethiopian coffee roasters and exporters, drawing lessons from Colombia's successful coffee export strategies. UNCTAD also recommended strengthening market information systems within existing sector organizations like the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority, and provided capacity building workshops and training modules for coffee roasters.

How important is the CFC's mission to invest in agribusinesses that enhance the incomes of smallholder farmers and support sustainable practices, in terms of creating equitable food systems?

These goals are particularly urgent in today's global context where multiple crises have disrupted agricultural systems and endangered the livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers. The latter are vital to global agricultural value chains, particularly in developing economies, but remain the most economically vulnerable participants in them.

Institutions like the CFC play a crucial role in addressing the economic marginalization of smallholder farmers, particularly in terms of access to finance and loans. By strategically directing investments to improve smallholder incomes and create transparent value capture mechanisms, the CFC has the potential to

fundamentally transform economic opportunities for millions of rural producers.

What role do you think impact investing has in driving positive outcomes for agribusinesses and smallholder farmers in the Global South?

In agriculture, impact investing represents more than just a financial strategy – it signals a paradigm shift toward holistic, sustainable development approaches. By aligning capital with comprehensive development goals, these investments have the potential to drive systemic transformations in agricultural ecosystems across the Global South.

Impact investments can bridge critical financing gaps for smallholder farmers and agribusinesses by offering capital with longer investment horizons and more flexible financial terms.

We're unlocking private sector funding for agri-SMEs through our ACT Fund. How important is it to increase access to financing for these businesses?

The introduction of financial mechanisms like the ACT Fund reflects a clear understanding of the complexities surrounding investment in agriculture. It is a step in the right direction towards addressing the financing challenges faced by stakeholders in agricultural value chains in developing countries.

SMEs in developing countries play a fundamental role in bridging smallholder farmers with high-value markets. However, SMEs have historically faced significant barriers, particularly limited access to capital and insufficient technical knowledge, which substantially impede their capacity to effectively connect farmers with broader economic opportunities.

The ACT Fund's investment strategy represents a comprehensive approach to addressing these challenges. ▶

How can public, private and government organizations work together to create an ecosystem that supports investing in agriculture in the Global South?

Strengthening agricultural investment in developing countries requires a multifaceted and integrated approach that combines the unique strengths of public, private, and government organizations. First, risk mitigation mechanisms are crucial to reduce the uncertainties faced by investors and support agricultural growth. This can be achieved by establishing joint risk sharing platforms where the public and private sectors work together to create financial instruments that mitigate

these risks. Additionally, designing innovative insurance products can protect private investors while also providing much-needed support to smallholder farmers. Guarantee funds could also be established to give confidence to private-sector investors when exploring agricultural opportunities in developing regions. Institutional and policy alignment is another key aspect of promoting agricultural investment. Transparent and predictable regulatory environments need to be created to encourage cross-sector investments. Also, policy frameworks should be developed to incentivize sustainable and inclusive agricultural investments, ensuring that economic growth benefits all stakeholders involved.

What are the critical factors that will drive success?

A key success factor for this is transparency, which fosters trust and collaboration between stakeholders. Strategies must be flexible and adaptive, allowing them to respond to changing circumstances in the agricultural sector. Long-term commitment from all parties is essential to ensure the sustainability of investments.

Finally, solutions need to be clearly and effectively adapted to local conditions, acknowledging the complexity and diversity of different agricultural value chains in developing countries. ■

Philippines Strengthens Partnership with CFC Through Voluntary Contribution

The Hague – The Government of the Philippines has reaffirmed its commitment to the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) with a voluntary contribution of USD 15,000 toward the development of the Strategic Framework 2025–2035. This contribution underscores the Philippines’ dedication to sustainable development, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and agricultural commodity-dependent communities worldwide.

The handover took place on 24 February 2025 at the Philippine Embassy in The Hague. H.E. J. Eduardo Malaya, Governor of CFC for the Philippines and Ambassador to the Netherlands, presented the contribution to Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal, CFC Managing Director. Also present was H.E. Mirjam Blaak Sow, Chairperson of the CFC Governing Council and Ambassador of Uganda to Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg.

Ambassador Malaya emphasized the Philippines’ support for CFC’s mission, stating, “This contribution reflects our commitment to alleviating poverty, fostering economic growth, and empowering smallholder farmers. It underscores our dedication to ensuring that commodity-dependent communities receive the necessary support to build resilience and create lasting economic opportunities.”

Ambassador Belal expressed gratitude, noting, “The Philippines’ steadfast commitment to CFC is commendable. This support enhances our ability to implement impactful projects and drive meaningful change for commodity-dependent communities. It serves as an inspiration for other Member States.”

The contribution precedes the 79th Meeting of the CFC Executive Board on 8–9 April 2025, chaired by Ambassador Malaya. It will help refine and implement CFC’s Strategic Framework 2025–2035, ensuring the Fund remains responsive to Member States’ evolving needs.

The Philippines’ role in shaping the global commodities agenda dates back to 1976, when the concept of the CFC was proposed in Manila. Since then, the country has remained a dedicated Member State, advocating for inclusive economic growth.



From left H.E. J. Eduardo Malaya, Ambassador of the Philippines to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal, CFC Managing Director and H.E. Mirjam Blaak Sow, Ambassador of Uganda to Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg.

Ambassador Malaya encouraged other Member States to increase voluntary contributions, stating, “CFC remains open to new contributions to enhance operational efficiency and meet growing demand for its services. The Philippines believes that joint efforts among Member States will create meaningful impact.”

The Strategic Framework 2025–2035 will guide CFC’s interventions in food security, climate resilience, job creation, and income growth for smallholder farmers. It aligns CFC’s strategies with emerging global challenges and seeks to expand its impact.

The Philippines’ contribution sets a precedent for collective action, reinforcing the importance of international partnerships in building a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient commodities sector. By mobilizing resources and fostering collaboration, CFC and its Member States can ensure long-term prosperity for commodity-dependent communities worldwide. ■

ACT Fund 2025 Update

With 2025 now well underway, we are excited about the forthcoming launch of the ACT Fund! As we continue making strides toward our first closing, we want to share some key updates on our progress.

Dealflow Pipeline

A robust dealflow pipeline is one of the ACT Fund's key strengths as an established lender in our sector. Currently, we have a total of USD 36 million in debt deals ready for investment. The first transactions will be executed as soon as the fund reaches its first closing.

Fundraising Progress

Investor interest in the ACT Fund is growing steadily. We currently have four investors active in the ACT dataroom, with one investor already passing its initial approval for an investment. We are optimistic about achieving sufficient commitments for the first closing later this year. Additionally, with the support of the CFC TA Management team, we are actively fundraising for the ACT Technical Assistance Facility.

Key ACT Fund Achievements to Date

We are proud of the significant milestones we have achieved thus far:

- **Junior tranche approved** – The CFC board approved a USD 20 million commitment to the first-loss tranche.
- **Legal structure & documentation completed** – Full legal documentation is in place and available for investor review.
- **Data room available** – Investors are actively utilizing the dataroom for due diligence.
- **Core team established** – A dedicated team is now operational in Amsterdam and Africa, with plans for further expansion post-closing.
- **Investment committee appointed** – A strong, independent investment committee is selected.
- **Service providers onboarded** – Our legal advisor and external fund administrator have been selected.
- **Climate & Impact Strategy developed** – We have formulated a position paper on ACT's Inclusive Regenerative Agriculture

strategy, which underpins our Theory of Change. This paper has been reviewed by external experts and is available for interested investors.

- **Active investor engagement** – Several investors are in discussions, supported by ACT's dataroom containing key fund documentation.
- **Continued pipeline development** – Demand for loan financing remains strong. Our recent Call for Proposals in October attracted nearly 200 proposals totaling USD 280 million in financing requests from agri-SMEs, 80% of which are from Africa. Following an extensive review, 11 prospects with a combined USD 20 million in loan financing are entering the due diligence stage, many of which align with ACT's investment criteria.

With momentum building towards the ACT Fund's launch, we are dedicated to creating high-impact investment opportunities that generate financial, social and ecological returns. We welcome investors to join us on this transformative journey. ■



Mathias Cooman Impact Strategy Officer

We are pleased to welcome Mathias Cooman as our new Impact Strategy Officer.

Mathias brings a wealth of experience in impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation, international trade, and global value chains. Mathias is passionate about the transformative role trade and investment play in fostering local development, particularly for smallholder farmers.

He joins the CFC with a commitment to ensure that the impact of the Fund's sustainable investments reach those smallholders who stand to benefit the most.

In his new role, Mathias will lead the CFC's SDG impact strategy and reporting, with a focus on impact measurement and management (IMM) for investments supporting SMEs and smallholder farmers. Additionally, he will oversee environmental, social, and governance (ESG) activities, including social and environmental (S&E) due diligence and risk assessments, ensuring that CFC investments drive positive, sustainable change.

Before joining the CFC, Mathias worked as a Research Consultant at Ecorys Netherlands for four years, specializing in international trade, development finance, and private sector development (PSD). He played key roles in policy evaluations, impact assessments, and advisory projects for European institutions, national governments, and international organizations. His work spanned various sectors, including the analysis of environmental impacts of Free Trade Agreements

(FTAs), evaluating social programs like the European Social Fund, and conducting economic analyses on topics such as sugar taxes, social entrepreneurship, and SME support schemes.

Mathias holds a Master of Science in International Economics from Erasmus University Rotterdam, where he graduated with academic distinction. His thesis explored the impact of tariff protectionism on foreign direct investment (FDI). Additionally, he earned an International Bachelor of Science in Economics & Business Economics and an International Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, with his thesis "Productivity spillovers from FDI: empirical evidence from Estonia" being awarded third place in the Erasmus Thesis Competition. Complemented by a minor in development economics from Los Andes University in Bogotá, Colombia, Mathias brings a multidisciplinary approach to impact assessment with both quantitative and qualitative expertise.

A Colombian and Belgian national, Mathias has lived across Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe, and he speaks English, Spanish, and Dutch fluently. His multicultural background and his affinity with complex economic and social landscapes fuel his passion for fostering inclusive and sustainable development solutions. Outside of work, Mathias has a strong commitment to social impact, previously volunteering for housing projects in Colombia and a homeless shelter in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. He also enjoys playing tennis, hiking, traveling and exploring different cultures and foods. ■

With 12 years of experience in managing Technical Assistance (TA) facilities and a diverse array of knowledge within the wider CFC to call on, our team is a leading provider of TA services across a range of agricultural value chains. The combined expertise of the TA team spans across agriculture, agroforestry, project management, impact assessment and social and environmental risk management. Currently, the team is managing the technical assistance facility of one large impact investment fund, worth USD 200 million, designing and implementing tailored TA support through advisory and capacity development to partner companies across agricultural value chains in Africa.



Photo: Adobe stock

CFC's Technical Assistance Facility team supporting over 50 agribusinesses and financial institutions across Africa and Latin America

The team recently concluded the management of the Agroforestry Technical Assistance Facility (ATAF) after having successfully developed and managed over 20 TA projects with partner companies and project beneficiaries across 10 countries in Africa and Latin America. Our TA team aims to accelerate development in communities where it is needed most. Here is a look at some of the ways we achieve that.

AATIF TA Facility

As climate change increasingly shapes global economic landscapes, financial institutions are recognizing the urgent need to integrate climate risk into their operations. The Africa Agriculture and Trade Investment Fund (AATIF) is at the forefront of this transformation, offering tailored technical assistance (TA) to finan-

cial institutions across Africa in integrating climate risk integrations into their operations.

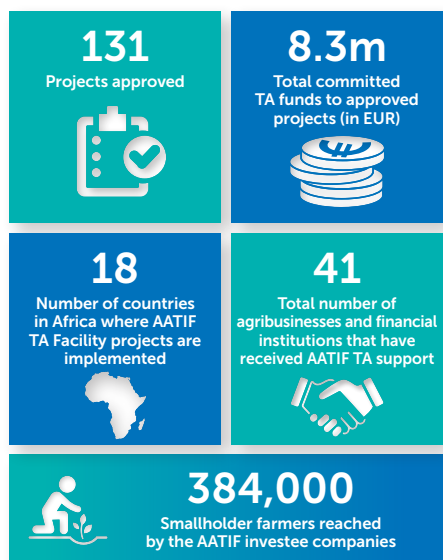
The CFC, as the AATIF TA Facility Manager, has observed a rising demand for climate-related support, driven by multiple factors:

- Voluntary implementation of sustainable impact strategies driven by the urgency of the global climate crisis and its effects on regional or national levels;
- Leverage substantial growth potential unlocking green credit lines, climate funds accreditation and other fundraising opportunities;
- Reporting requirements from impact investors (including AATIF) and Development Financial Institutions, e.g. the Sustainable Finance Disclosure

- Regulations (SFDR) adopted by the EU;
- Compliance with regulatory frameworks imposed by Central Banks implementing Task Force on Climate-Related Disclosures (TCFD) recommendations (e.g. Nigeria, Kenya), and green finance standards (e.g. BCEAO).

The AATIF TA Facility provides targeted support to financial institutions in key areas, including: mapping Scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including financed emissions, and conducting physical and transition climate risk assessments. Furthermore, the TA Facility supports the development and implementation of climate risk management tools and strategic roadmaps, accompanied with institutional capacity development, for example through staff training. ■

AATIF TA Facility (2012-present):

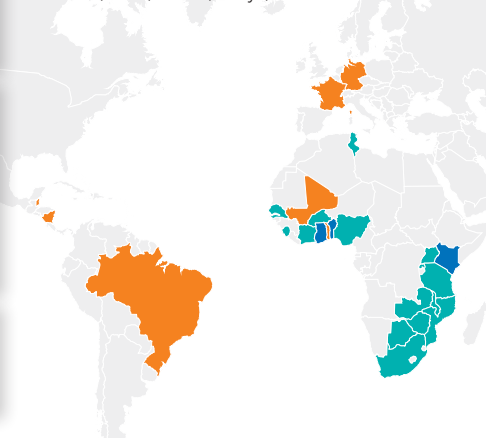


ATAF (2017-present):



Map (of AATIF and ATAF countries)

- Orange:** ATAF (Belize, Brazil, France, Germany, Mali, Nicaragua, Togo)
- Green:** AATIF (Botswana, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe)
- Blue:** AATIF and ATAF (Benin, Ghana, Kenya)



75th Consultative Committee Recommends:

10 Investments to benefit over 226,000 smallholders, with more than 50% women



Photo: Adobe stock

The 75th Meeting of the Consultative Committee (CC) of the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) concluded with the recommendation of 10 new investments for consideration by the Executive Board (EB). If approved, these projects will benefit over 226,000 smallholder farmers and agribusinesses across diverse commodity sectors, fostering economic growth and sustainability in some of the world's most vulnerable regions.

These investments will unlock USD 90.9 million in financing, including an USD 8.2 million commitment by the CFC. The proposed financing will strengthen value chains in coffee, cocoa, spices, essential oils, sustainable seafood, tilapia farming, macadamia nuts, fruits, microfinance, and agricultural leasing across Africa, Latin America, and Asia. Carefully selected from 190 proposals submitted under the 25th Call for Proposals, these investments aim to enhance productivity, expand market access, and promote long-term economic opportunities.

Strategic Framework 2025-2035

The Committee was briefed on the development of the CFC's Strategic Framework for 2025-2035, which reinforces the organi-

zation's long-term vision by emphasizing impact-driven financing, climate resilience, financial inclusion, innovation, and partnerships. The framework seeks to maximize socio-economic and environmental benefits, improve smallholders' viability, expand access to capital, and promote sustainability and traceability in agricultural supply chains. This strategic approach will guide future investments, ensuring alignment with evolving global sustainability challenges.

ACT Fund: A Game-Changer for Commodities Investment

A key focus of discussions was the Agricultural Commodity Transformation (ACT) Fund, a major initiative of the CFC designed as an impact investment vehicle to scale up financing for sustainable agricultural commodities. The committee was updated on ongoing fundraising efforts and investor engagement, with the first close anticipated soon. The ACT Fund aims to mobilize capital to address critical financing gaps and support sustainable agribusinesses.

Innovation and Economic Growth Through Impact-Driven Investments

CFC Managing Director Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal emphasized the impor-

ance of targeted financing in the commodity sector, stating:


"These investments represent more than just financial commitments – they directly address the pressing challenges faced by smallholder farmers and agribusinesses in developing countries. By investing in locally driven solutions, we can unlock new markets, improve livelihoods, and create a more equitable and resilient global food system."

Key highlights of the meeting included discussions on digitization and sustainable value chain financing, as well as endorsements of collaborative frameworks such as the ACT Fund.

With commodity-dependent economies facing trade inequities, climate challenges, and market fluctuations, the CFC remains committed to bridging financial gaps and humanizing the agricultural value chain.

The 10 recommended projects will now move forward for consideration by the CFC Executive Board. If approved, they will be implemented to ensure sustainable economic impact in the target regions. ■

More than
226,000
farmers expected to benefit, with more than
50% women

 **10**
projects recommended

 **USD 90.9m**
in financing unlocked

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